James Nieh, a professor of biology, has been named this year's winner of the San Diego Science Educator's Association Excellence in University Teaching Award.

The region's professional science education support organization annually recognizes a university-K12 program for the award which "has had a substantive, positive impact on science education in the San Diego area."

It honored Nieh and the UCSD undergraduate and graduate students working in his lab for a number of local activities that included "partnering with High Tech High School to develop greater interest in and knowledge of native pollinators in San Diego which strengthens student knowledge of the scientific method and provides hands-on, minds-on research experiences for students."

"Last summer the Nieh lab began working with the HMC Upward Bound Program to help low-income, potential first-generation college students gain research experience through classes and internships," the association said. "Their work with the Upward Bound Program will continue this summer. The Opportunities for Research in Behavioral Sciences (ORBS) program developed by the Nieh Lab provides research experience for students who are traditionally underrepresented in the sciences. These students in turn perform community outreach to their areas."

In addition to the personal outreach to students, the Nieh Lab has developed a website—The Teaching Bee: Ecology and Behavior of Native Pollinators—which includes student activities, videos, photos, links and powerpoint presentations for educators.

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